

Mind-Blowing Apps to Enhance the 6 Traits of Writing

Ideas

- **Story Wheel - Free**
 - This is an excellent app for students who have a hard time building a story line. –Elementary
- **IdeaGenerator - \$.99**
 - Students can spin a wheel that will give them three words to create an idea for a story. Teachers are able to edit the word list to make it grade level appropriate. –Upper Elementary-High School
- **Telephone – Free**
 - This can be a whole class or group activity based on the game “telephone” or “gossip.” The first person will write a creative sentence. The next person will draw a picture based on the sentence. The third person will write a sentence based on the second person’s picture and so on until all people have gone.
 - This helps students build creative ideas in a fun and exciting way. –All Grades
- **Storylines - Free**
 - This app is much like Telephone, but it only allows you to have up to 9 players. –All Grades
- **Disneyland Explorer - Free**
 - This app is an interactive map of Disneyland. This can be used for many different ideas. As one example, you can have students go into the section titled, “Mickey’s House and Meet Mickey.” Inside the house there are many different silent videos that they can watch. They can use one of the videos and write the dialog of what the characters would say if it wasn’t silent.
 - As another idea, go into the section titled, “Soarin’ Over California” or “Star Tours-The Adventures Continue” and fly over different locations. The student can pick one location and write about what they would see if they actually went to this location. –All Grades
- **iDiary - \$1.99**
 - This app is a simple diary. It could be a fun idea to create a class diary where students can write down frustrations, exciting things, questions, etc. –All grades

Organization

- **Total Recall - Free**
 - Total Recall is a mind concept web that you can organize thoughts by colors and groups. This will help students organize thoughts into topics, subtopics, details, and further explanations. –All Grades

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- **SimpleMind+ - Free**
 - This app is much like Total Recall, except that color schemes are already assigned. It is a little less complicated for younger students or whole group instruction. –All Grades
- **iBrainstorm - Free**
 - This app is like a corkboard where they can write sticky notes to organize their thoughts. For example, students can create the sticky notes to create ideas for a story and put them in order. They can use the sticky notes as a note-taking device during reading groups.
 - This can also be used as an idea builder to create a storyline
 - Unlike Total Recall or SimpleMind+, this app allows students to write directly on the board. –All Grades

Voice

- **Sock Puppets - Free**
 - This app allows students to choose a puppet, scenery, and props. The puppets will take on the voice of the student as he/she speaks.
 - Teachers can give the students a narration of a particular topic and ask students to rewrite the narration in the voice of...(an outside person looking in, a newscaster, a person from the opposite side of view, or even a fictional or realistic character). –All Grades (but designed for lower)
- **In A World Drama - \$1.99**
 - This is an app where students can create movie trailers. Students can collect pictures and put them to preset words. –All Grades
 - Students can create the story, and then build the trailer to go with it.
 - In A World Comedy-\$1.99 –All Grades (Warning: Some may find this app inappropriate it does have fart noises.)
- **Puppet Pals/Puppet Pals HD - Free**
 - With this app, students can create shows where they must write dialog in the specific voice for each different character. It allows the students to create a puppet show, while recording their voices, and students can add movement to the puppets.–Elementary
- **i Tell a Story - Free**
 - Students will write a story. Then using this app they can record it, and add sound effects to it. –Elementary

Sentence Fluency

- **Teleprompter+ - \$14.99**
 - In this fun app, students can type in their stories/newscasts. The teleprompter will scroll while students read their work aloud. Students will also have the option of recording their voice while they read. This app also will record video of the students while they are reading.

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- This allows students to play back what they have recorded, giving them the options to change and improve sentences that may not read smoothly. –All Grades
- **Teleprompter - Free**
 - This app allows students to type in what they have written, and the text will scroll. Very much like Teleprompter+, but this app **does not** record voice. –All Grades
- **Talking Tom - Free**
 - This can be a good app for younger students, primarily K-3, who are just learning how to form sentences. They can write their sentences on a piece of paper and read them aloud as they are recording. Then they can play the recording back and hear their sentences being said by Tom the Cat. –Lower Grades
- **Talking News - Free**
 - This app is very much like Talking Tom. This app has two characters instead of one, so students can participate in pairs. –Lower Grades
- **Sentence Maker - Free**
 - The students can move words into the correct position to make a sentence. Teachers can add sentences that go along with their vocabulary. It teaches students to form a sentence from 3 to 5 words. –Kindergarten and 1st

Word Choice

- **Story Kit - Free**
 - This app has four prewritten fairy tales that students can go in and edit. Teachers can specify to have their students add adjectives, adverbs, or change the sentences completely.
 - This app also allows you to create your own story by adding text, pictures, and audio. –Upper Elementary-High School
- **Mad Libs – Free (for the first few)**
 - Students have to provide creative nouns, adjectives, adverbs, etc. to build funny stories. –Elementary
- **SparkleFish - Free**
 - This app is like Mad Libs. –Elementary
- **English Idioms Illustrated - Free**
 - This app will give the history behind idioms while teaching some popular idioms as well. –Upper Grades
- **Idiom in Use - Free**
 - Students become acquainted with idioms that can be put in place of regular vocabulary in writing sentences. –Upper Grades
- **Bluster - Free**
 - This is a game where students can work solo, in a team, or compete against each other as they try to form synonyms, antonyms, prefixes, etc. –2-4 grades (but can work for higher as well)

Conventions

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- **Painless Grammar Challenge - Free**
 - Students are given four sentences and they have to choose which sentence is grammatically correct or incorrect. –Upper elementary and above
- **Grammar Jammers Primary Edition - Free**
 - This app defines a part of speech by singing a song. Then it will quiz the students on the part of speech it just taught. –Elementary
 - Elementary and Middle edition available for \$2.99
- **Grammar Fun - Free**
 - This app has premade sentences. The students can learn the different parts of speech individually in sentences by turning on one part of speech at a time. Then they can test their knowledge by turning on all parts of speech and identifying them. –Elementary
- **iTooch Grade 5 English- English Gr5 Lite - Free**
 - This app is a grammar quiz game that works with grammar, verbs, vocabulary and spelling. The questions are either multiple choice or type in the answer. -5th and Above
- **GrammarUp: Free Edition - Free**
 - A quiz system that has over 1800 questions with 20 grammar categories –High School
- **Wordlands HD - Free**
 - A game similar to “Boggle,” where students are given scrambled letters and have to create as many words as they can. –All Grades
- **7 Little Words - Free**
 - Students are able to create words using letter chunks given definitions.
 - Good for building vocabulary –Upper Levels

Others Mind-Blowing Apps:

- **Kid Animation – Free**
 - Students can make a step-by -step animation by drawing. Students can add their own text, record voice, and even change the speed of the animation. –All Grades
- **Moxie Free Edition- Free**
 - This is a “lingo” style word game app where students can build words by adding letters. –Upper Elementary and Above
- **Word Vs. Word - \$.99**
 - A word game where students have to figure out the word based on spelling and process of elimination. –Upper Elementary and Above
- **Word Ladder - Free**
 - Students change one letter at a time to form words based on a clue. (similar to lingo). –Upper Elementary-Middle
- **Futaba - Free**
 - A game used for word recognition. –Kindergarten-1st and beginning ESL

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- **Word Monster - Free**
 - A game where students complete word puzzles. They are given half of a compound word and they have to figure out the rest of it. –Upper Elementary-Middle
- **Conundra - Free**
 - A timed game where students try to unscramble words. –Upper levels
- **Word to Word - Free**
 - Word association game –Upper Elementary-Middle
- **Word Warp Xtreme - Free**
 - A game with scrambled letters and they have to make as many words as they can with the letters. –All grades
- **Apps Gone Free - Free**
 - This amazing app provides apps daily that are free for the day. (Mostly games, but sometimes you can find some really good educational apps.)
- **Textropolis - Free**
 - This game is a scrambled word game where students build as many words as they can based off of letters of famous cities. –All Grades
- **WS: Aurora Lite - Free**
 - This app is like a word version of solitaire. Students will turn over cards and have to build words with the cards. –All Grades
- **Utah Write –Website – Cost per student**
 - This is a website that can be used to help students with all steps of the writing process. They can type essays, then it will give them ideas of things they can improve in their writing. Although this is a website, it is compatible with the iPad. –Upper Elementary and Above
- **Audio Memos Free - Free**
 - This app is a quick and easy way to record voice. This is a great app to quickly record students' voices while reading so they can see if they are using expression when they read. –All Grades
- **Dragon Dictation- Free**
 - This app is a voice recognition device that will type what you speak– All Grades

How to find even MORE apps:

Apps Gone Free-This app is my favorite way to find other apps. Although you never know which apps are going to be free which day, it is always good to check. You may find an amazing app that you can use.

App Hits for iPad- This allows you to find free apps that are currently free. This is a lot like Apps Gone Free.

Search Engine Cues- These are words I used as search cues while I searched for apps: brainstorm, write, notes, grammar, education writing, education brainstorm, productivity, word games, writing games, Disney, and drama.